

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Higher Education Committee

BILL: SB 1752

INTRODUCER: Senator Oelrich

SUBJECT: Postsecondary Education

DATE: February 14, 2012

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harkey	deMarsh-Mathues	HE	Pre-meeting
2.			BC	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

When the 2006 Legislature enacted the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Act, the law included a repeal date of June 30, 2011, and the law was repealed on that date. Three programs are associated with the act—the Centers of Excellence program, the 21st Century Scholars program, and the State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grants program. This bill would repeal the 2006 repeal and would reenact and save the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Act from repeal.

This bill revives and reenacts s. 1004.226, Florida Statutes. The bill repeals s. 6 of ch. 2006-58, Laws of Florida.

II. Present Situation:

The 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Act¹ was created in 2006 to enhance the research infrastructure at state universities. The act included the Centers of Excellence Program, the State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grant Program, and the 21st Century World Class Scholars Program. The act established the 11-member Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board to guide the establishment of the programs established in the act and to review and approve State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grants.

¹ s. 1004.226, F.S.

The state's investment of \$84.5 million in the 11 SUS Centers of Excellence has yielded \$251 million in competitive grants and another \$24 million in private sector support. The centers collectively have made 223 invention disclosures, executed 43 licenses or options, received nearly a half million dollars in license revenues, initiated 30 companies, created 745 jobs, and provided over 100 specialized industry training sessions. In addition, the centers have supported 1,110 undergraduate and graduate students, and created collaborations with 508 private industry entities.²

The 21st Century World Class Scholars program consists of 16 faculty positions at state universities. Cumulatively, the world class scholars have received nearly \$46 million in external competitive grants and have had 16 patents issued.³

The State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grant Program has been instrumental in moving university-based inventions toward commercialization. Grants awarded under this program total \$1.8 million.⁴

A bill⁵ was filed in the 2011 Legislative session to abrogate the repeal of s. 1004.226, F.S., but the bill did not pass, and the statute was repealed on July 1, 2011.

The Board of Governors' January 2011 report on the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship programs states that while these programs represent a small portion of the \$1.3 billion in federal, private, and other research and development contracts and grant awards to Florida in 2008-09:

Nevertheless, taken together these 21st Century Act programs represent a significant, focused response to the System's goal of transforming Florida's economy to one that relies less on growth, tourism, and agriculture and, instead, aspires to be a national leader in high-wage, high-skill, cutting-edge technology.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill repeals section 6 of ch. 2006-58, L.O.F., which established a June 30, 2011, repeal date for the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Act. Notwithstanding that repeal date, the bill revives and reenacts s. 1004.226, F.S., the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Act.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

² State University System of Florida Board of Governors. "21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Act Programs, A Report Compiled from the 2009-2010 State University System of Florida Annual Reporting Process," pp.6-7. Readable at: http://www.flbog.edu/new_florida/docs/PUBLISHED_2010_21st_Century_Annual_Report.pdf

³ *Id.* p.14.

⁴ *Id.* p.16.

⁵ SB 970, the text of which was amended into and later removed from SB 1194.

⁶ *Id.* p. 17.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

In the event that funds were appropriated for the programs established in the act, the Board of Governors (BOG) would be fiscally responsible for per diem and travel expenses incurred by Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board members while in the performance of their duties. The BOG would also provide staff support for the activities of the board.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.